

TIP OF THE

Sept. 24, 2004

SWORD

Incirlik Air Base, Turkey



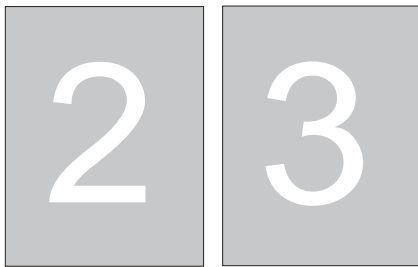
**Happy
Birthday**

AF celebrates 57 years

TIP OF THE SWORD

Volume 33 ♦ Number 37 ♦

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Department of Defense photo by Phil Copeland

The "Hooah" nutritious booster bar is a new food item for U.S. warriors on the battlefield to help sustain a high energy level. This carbohydrate-packed energy bar is included as part of the prototype "First Strike" rations that provide highly mobile ground troops with total eat-on-the-move capability. See related story, Page 4.

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On the cover:

Chief Master Sgt. Michael McClary, 39th Maintenance Squadron munitions chief, sprays Travis Whaley with a water gun as he attempts to dunk the chief at the Air Force's 57th birthday bash Saturday. See related photo, Page 12. (Photo by Senior Airman Dallas Edwards.)

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AAFES to standardize overseas gas pricing policy in Turkey

DALLAS — To standardize overseas gas pricing policies, the Army and Air Force Exchange Services requested and its Board of Directors have approved monthly pricing for gas stations in Japan, Okinawa, the Azores and Turkey. In the past, gas prices in Japan, Okinawa, the Azores and Turkey were adjusted once annually, unlike other locations where prices were changed monthly.

“Synchronizing the gas policy will ensure that the price of gas at all overseas locations reflects the U.S. market price, month to month,” said Maj. Gen. Kathryn Frost, AAFES commander. “AAFES’ objective is to offer pump prices that are consistent with the CONUS average regardless of where troops are stationed.”

To ensure AAFES customers find gas prices in line with local U.S. stations, the monthly overseas pricing policy is market based. Market-based pricing means prices will be based on the Department of Energy average price in the U.S. from the previous month plus incremental costs such as labor and other expenses. Incremental costs are unique to each country. This means if U.S. prices increase, prices at all locations will follow; and whenever U.S. prices go down, customers will enjoy a price reduction.

“There may be some sticker shock for customers who have been paying 2003 prices for an entire year,” said General Frost. “Prices at the pump in the U.S. have skyrocketed in the last year. AAFES is working to mitigate the initial impact that standardizing the policy may have on customers.”

AAFES will standardize the gas pricing policy in Japan, Okinawa, the Azores and Turkey Oct. 1. This date coincides with past annual sell price changes at these locations. *(Courtesy of Army and Air Force Exchange Services news service.)*

How to get more miles per gallon

♦ **Drive sensibly** — Aggressive driving (speeding, rapid acceleration and braking) can lower gas mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds and by 5 percent around town.

♦ **Observe the speed limit** — Gas mileage decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 mph. Each five mph driven over 60 mph is like paying an additional \$0.10 per gallon for gas.

♦ **Avoid excessive idling** — Idling gets zero miles per gallon. Cars with larger engines typically waste more gas at idle than cars with smaller engines.

♦ **Use cruise control** — Using cruise control on the highway helps maintain a constant speed and, in most cases, will save gas.

♦ **Use overdrive gears** — Overdrive gearing makes the car’s engine speed go down. This saves gas and reduces engine wear.

♦ **Keep your engine properly tuned** — Fixing a car noticeably out of tune or has failed an emissions test can improve gas mileage by an average of 4.1 percent, though results vary based on the kind of repair and how well it is done. If a vehicle has a faulty oxygen sensor replaced, gas mileage may improve as much as 40 percent.

♦ **Check and replace air filters regularly** — Replacing a clogged air filter can improve a car’s gas mileage by as much as 10 percent.

♦ **Keep tires properly inflated** — Gas mileage can be improved by 3.3 percent by keeping tires inflated to the proper pressure. Under-inflated tires can lower gas mileage by 0.4 percent for every 1 Pounds per Square Inch (psi) drop in pressure of all four tires.

♦ **Use the recommended grade of motor oil** — Gas mileage can be improved by one to two percent by using the manufacturer’s recommended grade of motor oil. *(Courtesy of Army and Air Force Exchange Services news service.)*

Time to give — Annual Combined Federal Campaign kicks off Oct. 1

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The 2004 - 2005 Combined Federal Campaign runs for six consecutive weeks Sept. 1 through Dec. 15 for bases within the continental United States. The overseas CFC campaign will be conducted for six consecutive weeks from Oct. 1 through Dec. 15.

Exact dates and campaign goals are established in each geographic area by the Local Federal Coordinating Committee and are available through the installation CFC project officer.

The CFC was established in 1961 and is the largest workplace charity campaign in the country. This annual fall fund-raising drive allows nearly four million federal employees and mili-

tary personnel to contribute to thousands of local and national non-profit organizations.

Last year, federal employees and military members reached into their pockets to donate nearly \$250 million to the CFC. Contributions can be in cash, check or by payroll deduction.

On average, one in four Federal employees or their dependents will benefit from the CFC charities this year alone, according to officials. Donors may designate which charity, or charities, receives their money by filling out a pledge card.

Local CFC project officers have more information. The CFC website is at www.opm.gov/cfc.



Feeding program will assist warriors with new rations

By Phil Copeland

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The Defense Department’s combat feeding program at the U.S. Army Soldier System Center in Natick, Mass., is a “one-stop shop for all combat-rations development, field food-service equipment and total combat feeding systems,” according to the Defense Department’s combat-feeding director.

Gerald Darsch said the joint-service program is an effort to provide not only the appropriate types and distribution of food needed by the military services, but also to supply food products to astronauts at the International Space Station.

Combat rations and their distribution have improved considerably over the last five to seven years, Mr. Darsch said. The program elicits “what Soldiers like to eat and what they don’t like to eat. All of the rations are Soldier requested, Soldier tested, Soldier approved.”

When servicemembers ask for a certain food item, such as Spanish rice or Thai chicken, food specialists develop recipes that will meet the request.

Test panels are randomly selected to evaluate recipes during development. Once a recipe is finished, it is field tested with Soldiers to ensure the goal is met.

One type of ration, the Meal, Ready-to-Eat, or MRE, is currently used by the military to sustain people in the field until an organized food facility is established. Recently, officials have noticed that mobile troops, who may not have much time to eat, take out only certain food components from the MRE rations.

“They leave up to 50 percent of the unused portion behind, only to be thrown away,” Mr. Darsch said.

This has evolved into the prototype “First Strike” ration program. It provides highly mobile ground troops with total eat-on-the-move capability. He said the idea is to provide a single ration per day containing only food items that are easy to use and consume.

Recently, both Marines and Soldiers have requested First Strike rations developed by the feeding program.

“The Marines have asked for these rations to use in Afghanistan and Iraq,” Mr. Darsch said. “(The Army’s) 1st Cavalry Division in Iraq has also requested to try these rations for their Soldiers.”

Mr. Darsch said this ration package includes a pocket sandwich with a three-year shelf life at room temperature, developed by the staff at the Army Soldier Center. This sandwich is a good idea for those who can not take a microwave or refrigerator out in the field, he said.

“We put three zip-lock bags in with the rations, so the person can break it up into three separate meals and easily store unused portions in the uniform pockets, wherever is most comfortable and fits the best,” he explained. “The beverage mix included with the rations is in a flexible package so you can reconstitute it right in the package and consume it directly from the package.”

Tube food, another type of ration, has been provided for the Air Force’s U-2 long-range surveillance aircraft pilots during their reconnaissance flights.

According to Air Force officials, the U-2 is the most difficult aircraft to fly because of its unusually challenging takeoff and landing charac-



Department of Defense photo by Phil Copeland

Two pieces of the new “Jolt” caffeine energy gum, equal to a cup of coffee, help sustain high energy levels for U.S. warriors on the battlefield. This gum is included as part of the prototype “First Strike” rations that provide highly mobile ground troops with total eat-on-the-move capability.

teristics. Because of its high-altitude mission, pilots must wear full pressure suits.

Combat feeding program officials, in a joint effort with the Air Force Research Lab staff, developed two foods that actually enhance the pilots’ cognitive performance.

After the pilots have been flying their aircraft for a long period of time, they can become lethargic and sluggish which can be a serious problem when they try to land. Mr. Darsch said adding a certain naturally occurring food ingredient to the tube foods ensures the crews are alert during the landing.

Natick research center workers also have launched a program to upgrade food-distribution systems for the Navy fleet. Mr. Darsch described how they developed modular food-distribution equipment for two Los Angeles-class submarines.

In the past, crewmembers had to cut up the equipment deckside and lower in the pieces one at a time through a 30-inch hatch and reassemble all of those pieces down in the galley, he said. This old process required up to 500 man-hours. Feeding program officials worked with a commercial company to come up with equipment designed and built in modules.

“The new idea is to lower the modules down through the hatch and then put the pieces together again, like LEGOs, in the galley,” Mr. Darsch said. “This now reduces the 500 man-hours down to a possible 75 man-hours to complete this task.”

The bottom line, he said, is that the combat feeding program covers the gamut for everything required for feeding the armed forces “from deep sea to deep space.”

Commander advises members to remember importance of voting

By Maj. Jeffrey Alexander

52nd Component Maintenance Squadron commander

SPANGDAHLEMAIRBASE, Germany—Have you been encouraged to register and vote this election season?

Unless you've been hiding under a rock, you likely have been a target audience to at least some of the many pitches made by Spangdahlem members to register for an absentee ballot. The increased emphasis is an attempt to ensure every servicemember and family member has an opportunity to vote with the minimum hindrance possible.

I've always maintained an interest in my hometown politics. I began absentee voting when I went away to college. Having experienced several U.S. elections and even being present during some foreign elections, I have had varying levels of interest in candidates, initiatives or outcomes in each election, but I have observed some specific instances of extreme irony in some of these election processes over the years.

One instance of election irony was a personal experience during a site survey to Poland for an early Partnership for Peace exercise. My site survey team spent the days prior to the 1996 election scouting airfields, ranges and support facilities across Poland.

The Polish military were great hosts, eager to work with our Air Force and forge closer ties to NATO. We were ably and graciously hosted by a Polish Air Force Colonel who had recently returned to Poland after being the first Polish Air Force officer to attend Air War College after the wall came down.

He had embraced the opportunity to learn and experience as much about the United States as possible during his year in our country.

He and his family had capped the year with a coast-to-coast car trip to see the United States. He put his civics lessons to use on the eve of the election to offer a toast to our democracy and to explain to his countrymen that the next day was the Tuesday after the first Monday in November, and we would be electing a new president.

We spent the rest of the evening professionally deflecting questions of which candi-

date we thought would win, who was best, etc.

One of my last acts prior to the temporary duty assignment to Poland was mailing my absentee ballot, so I had the voting materials tucked in my jacket. I had kept it for the purpose of demonstrating to a few friends that despite having a "favorite son" on the ballot, the state's electorate's devotion to him was far from universal. A total of 13 parties fielded presidential candidates in my state's general election.

The next day, during a bus ride to yet another facility, I referred to the colonel's interest in our election and showed him the ballot. Being stationed overseas, I had only heard mention of three of the 13 parties in the media during the campaign: Republican, Democrat and Reform; the colonel was similarly unfamiliar with all the other smaller parties.

After he marveled at the quantity of candidates and carefully reviewed the list of party names, he exclaimed, "But some of these are communists; how do you allow them in your election?" I explained that we were a truly open democracy, and though they never garnered too many votes, they had fielded a candidate in the race for decades.

He was absolutely dumbfounded; he could not believe that the U.S. had resisted communism through 50 years of the Cold War, persisted until the downfall of the Soviet Bloc and yet allowed communists to run in the presidential race.

The irony that flabbergasted the colonel is exactly what makes our democracy great; every party is able to bring their position to the table, and everyone has the opportunity to vote. This year, the Department of Defense has made the greatest effort in years to get troops registered and to eliminate voting barriers. Don't let the irony of this election be that you didn't take advantage of it.



Water outage

There will be a limited water outage Oct. 2 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to install a bypass line at the water pump station. Facilities directly affected by the water outage are all fire hydrants in North Loops; and Buildings 2, 5, 16, 2020, 2115 and 2209. Buildings having low water pressure are 2365, 2367 and 2372. For more information, call Paul Swinney, 39th Civil Engineer Squadron construction management chief, at 6-8020.

Service station

The military service station is closed Thursday from 9 p.m. to midnight for end-of-year close out procedures. For more information, call the fuels resource control center at 6-6469 or 6-6502.

ECAMP

The annual Incirlik Environmental Compliance Assessment and Management Program is Oct. 4 to Oct. 8. The purpose of the inspection is to identify areas of non-compliance and to achieve increased awareness. ECAMP provides a "snapshot in time" of the installation's level of compliance with environmental regulations. Air Force Instruction 32-7045 requires an internal compliance assessment be conducted annually. The team assess 13 environmental protocols including air emissions, cultural resources, hazardous waste, hazardous materials, water quality, solid waste, wastewater, natural resources, pesticides, petroleum, oil and lubricants, storage tanks, toxic substances and other environmental issues involving radon, PCBs and asbestos. For more information call Brian Panther, 39th Civil Engineer Squadron environmental engineer, at 6-3787.

Career enlisted aviators

Opportunities for career enlisted aviators have recently expanded with the opening up of nine aircrew specialties for retraining. More than 360 training slots are available in the ranks senior airman through master sergeant. Positions are available for in-flight refueling specialists, flight engineers, loadmasters, airborne communications and more. For more on enlisted aviator retraining, go to <https://www.xo.hq.af.mil/xoo/xoot/xoota/CEA/cea.htm> or visit the military personnel flight retraining office.

Staff Sgt. Regina Brown, 39th ABW historian, may also be one of the last military historians to collect, organize and analyze documents, produce periodic histories, answer historical and lessons-learned questions, work on history related projects for the commander, and process requests for new or revised emblems and organizational flags. She is among the last of a dying breed as a three-year plan to civilianize the position launches in fiscal 2005.



Photo by Senior Airman Dallas Edwards

Wing historian amongst the last of a dying breed

By Staff Sgt. Shanda De Anda
39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

The 39th Air Base Wing historian works in a one-Airman shop and has an extensive list of duties and responsibilities, which include recording the history of Air Force combat wings. The 39th Air Base Wing historian may also be one of the last military historians to collect, organize and analyze documents, produce periodic histories, answer historical and lessons-learned questions, work on history related projects for the commander, and process requests for new or revised emblems and organizational flags.

Staff Sgt. Regina Brown, 39th ABW historian, is among the last of a dying breed as a three-year plan to civilianize the position launches in fiscal 2005.

"As a historian it is my job to maintain the only permanent record of mission accomplishments while Air Force people are out on the front lines making history happen," said Sergeant Brown. "This information proves invaluable to commanders, planners and decision makers.

"The 39th ABW history also helps provide USAFE (U.S. Air Forces in Europe) with a better idea of the who, what, when, where, how and why of 39th ABW people contributing to the Air Force mission," she continued. "In addition to providing an extensive source of material for commanders to aide in decision making, I provide a trove of archived information not kept long term anywhere else to help provide those with a need to know a look at the big picture."

Sergeant Brown contributes to the Air Force mission by keeping a record as the 39th ABW mission gets accomplished and providing that data in the appropriate format for the people who need it. From decision-makers to action officers, from professional military education Airmen to promoting Air Force heritage and providing reference to researchers; Sergeant Brown is the gate keeper to all that the air base wing and its predecessors have accomplished as far back as 1940. Sergeant Brown does not succeed at her mission without some challenges.

"I'd say the number one challenge is education," said Sergeant Brown. "In gathering history, I use original documents such as after-action reports, trip reports and records of facts and events. Agencies that produce any records that help show how they are accomplishing the Air Force mission should contact me to have their contributions recorded and reported to USAFE."

Despite these and other challenges, Sergeant Brown has dedicated countless hours to making the information maintained in the historian's office more accessible. Sergeant Brown has developed an official professional reference library, which includes resources that cannot be found at the library; an audio-visual library, which includes slides, CD-ROMs and some film; and is working on several other projects to make the 39th ABW and Air Force history more usable for scholars, students and military people.

For more information or to volunteer your time to help digitize audio-visual records, call Sergeant Brown at 6-9667 or e-mail her at regina.brown2@incirlik.af.mil.



Courtesy photo

More than 3,800 runners competed in the 8th annual official Air Force Marathon at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Saturday. The half-marathon event began just as the sun was coming up, following the full and wheelchair marathon starting horns. The race also included a marathon relay and 5k event.

AF officials announce marathon results

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio – Helped by cool temperatures and a sunny sky, more than 3,800 runners from 48 states and 10 foreign countries ran in the eighth annual U.S. Air Force Marathon here Sept. 17, with about 2,000 spectators and more than 1,800 volunteers assisting.

Wheelchair competitors began the 26.2-mile race at 7 a.m., pursued by individual runners at 7:05 a.m.; relay teams at 7:20 a.m.; half-marathon (13.1 miles) runners at 7:40 a.m.; and 5k runners at 10 a.m.

The individual overall male winner was James Bresette, of Clinton, Ark., with a time of 2 hours, 40 minutes, 55 seconds. Second-place male winner was Hendrik Van Loon, of Ramstein Air Base, Germany, with a time of 2:40:59. Taking third place was Chuck Engle, of Clinton, Mich., with a time of 2:41:38.

Repeating her win from last year, individual overall female winner was Jill Metzger, of Ramstein AB, with a time of 3:06:06. Second place went to Shannon Moon, of Mount Orab, Ohio, with a time of 3:17:07. Finishing third was Kelly Tuinstra, of Beavercreek, Ohio, with a time of 3:20:04.

Grant Berthiaume, of Grand Rapids, Mich., was the first male wheelchair competitor to cross the finish line with a winning time of 2:09:11; Holly Koester, of Walton Hills, Ohio, was the first-place female with a winning time of 3:19:37. There were no second- and third-

place male or female wheelchair winners.

The first relay team to finish was Recce 1 with a time of 2:24:04; second place was Stars and Stripes at 2:38:07; third was Air Education and Training Command at 2:39:46.

The first male overall half-marathon winner was Mark Stidham, of Austin, Ind., with a time of 1:20:21; second was Eric Petersen, of Holladay, Utah, at 1:20:38; third was Gregory Sierschula, of Dayton, Ohio, at 1:20:48.

The first female overall half-marathon winner was Charlotte Anne Chumlea, of Springfield, Ohio, with a time of 1:27:16; second was Teri Ewert, of Beavercreek, at 1:29:50; third was Fe Lobo-Menendez, of San Antonio at 1:30:07.

The first male overall 5k-run finisher was Jimmie Haager, of Camden, Ohio, with a time of 16 minutes, 52 seconds; second was Brian Frederickson, of Beavercreek, at 17:06; third was Matthew Nyholm, of West Carrollton, Ohio, at 18:25.

The first female overall 5k-run finisher was Leslie Steckbeck, of Sherwood, Ark., with a time of 20:18; second was Amy Gibson, of Asheville, N.C., at 20:56; third was Melissa Kimbler, of Dayton, at 21:01.

Final race results can be found on the marathon Web site at <http://afmarathon.wpafb.af.mil>.

Next year's Air Force Marathon is scheduled to take place Sept. 17.



Golf tournament — The Air Force Sergeants Association hosts a four-person select shot scramble tournament with wacky rules Saturday. Shotgun start is at 8 a.m. The cost is \$15 per person and is limited to the first 18 teams. The tournament also includes closest to pin and longest drive contests. For more information, e-mail Tech. Sgt. Larry Dostart or Staff Sgt. Eric Hernandez.

Soccer volunteers — Volunteers are needed for the upcoming soccer season. Open jambo-ree begins Saturday for ages 5 to 18. Volunteer packets are accepted at the youth center. For more information, call Jerome Latimer at 6-6670.

Water aerobics — Water aerobics classes are offered Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 6 to 7 p.m. Cost is \$30 per month. For more information, call 6-6044.

Skeet and trap shooting — Outdoor recreation offers skeet and trap shooting Tuesdays through Fridays by appointment. Open shooting begins Saturdays at 9 a.m. Cost is \$10, and includes shells and clays. For more information, call 6-6044.

Scuba course — Outdoor recreation offers a scuba course, which includes training and Professional Association of Diving Instructors certification. Water training is provided in an indoor pool, plus four open water dives in Kizkalesi. Cost is \$250. For more information, call Yasar Karalar, scuba instructor, at 6-6044 or e-mail incirlikdiving@yahoo.com.

Lapswim — Early morning lap swim is Mondays through Fridays from 6 to 7 a.m. at the base pool. For more information, call 6-3442.

Combat Hapkido — The fitness center sponsors Combat Hapkido Mondays and Wednesdays at 7:45 p.m. and Fridays at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call 6-6086.

Trotters and Striders Club — Keep a fitness center record of the miles walked or ran and qualify to win prizes. For more information, call 6-6086.

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



By Col. Michael Gardiner, 39th Air Base Wing commander

Customer College distinguished graduates

Congratulations to the following Customer College distinguished graduates:

- ♦ July 26-30: **Senior Airman Joel Rose**, 728th Air Mobility Squadron
- ♦ Aug 9-12: **Senior Airman Evelyn Jackson**, 728th AMS
- ♦ Aug 16-19: **Staff Sgt. Shanda De Anda**, 39th Air Base Wing staff
- ♦ Aug 30-Sept 2: **Senior Airman NiKohl Cotton**, 39th Logistics Readiness Squadron
- ♦ Sept 13-16: **Staff Sgt. Harry Kibbe**, American Forces Network – Incirlik

Feeding stray animals

We have stray cats at Incirlik – a lot of stray cats. Ever wondered why? Stray cats migrate to where there is a food source, either from a dumpster or a bowl outside someone’s home or workplace. Incirlik Air Base Instruction 44-101 prohibits the feeding of stray animals. Although it is tempting to do what you can to help these animals, not feeding them will cut down on the number of strays we attract on base. Also, if you have a dumpster in your area make sure everyone gets the word to keep dumpster lids closed.

Unlawful discrimination

Positive human relations and effective teamwork are essential to the success of any organization – and are absolutely critical to mission accomplishment in the Air Force. Every Airman, military dependent or civilian is entitled to be treated with mutual respect, courtesy

and dignity. You are all expected to be willing to put your life on the line for your comrades-in-arms, and we can’t depend on you to do that if you fail to live up to standards.

Discrimination - to include sexual harassment – diminishes individual self-worth and is completely contrary to our core values of personal integrity, service before self, and excellence in all we do. Discriminatory actions strike at the core of our operations by destroying the morale, teamwork and mutual respect that form the foundation for unit cohesion, mission accomplishment and combat readiness.

Neither discrimination nor sexual harassment will be tolerated – not in your unit, not in this wing, not in our Air Force. Individuals who violate this very simple rule will be held accountable for their actions. The Air Force has made a substantial investment in educating our work force on this issue and there is simply no excuse for any act of discrimination or sexual harassment.

Any Airman, military dependent or civilian uncertain about the appropriate standards of conduct should consult their chain of command or the 39th Air Base Wing Military Equal Opportunity Office at 6-6210.

Fire safety

There was a fire in a dormitory room recently caused by a 110 volt appliance being plugged into a 220 volt receptacle, using a plug adapter. This caused the appliance to overheat and burst into flames, which damaged the room and put the entire dormitory residents in a very dangerous circumstance.

The lesson learned in this situation is to never plug a 110 volt appliance into 220 volt receptacle unless it is a dual voltage item. If your electrical item is dual voltage it should be indicated on the appliance. If you are not sure, assume it is not dual voltage.

The white plastic adapters like the ones sold in the base exchange are not authorized in Air Force work facilities, lodging and dormitory areas. Residents of base housing are cautioned in using these devices. Never use plastic adapters to plug in appliances rated 100 watts or more. For more information, call the 39th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Prevention Office at extension 6-6974. Fire prevention is everyone’s business!

Play it smart

Incirlik holds safety day Tuesday

By Gen. Robert H. “Doc” Foglesong
Commander, U.S. Air Forces in Europe

As we close out this fiscal year, I applaud commanders, supervisors, technicians and every member of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe team for a strong safety record in FY04. In order to reflect on our successes and some of our failures, I am directing all USAFE units to have a safety down day during the last week of September. Incirlik will have its safety day Tuesday.

Although we had a good year, one fatality is too many. We have had several “Class B” flight mishaps and numerous on- and off-duty ground mishaps. Many of our flight mishaps this past year can be attributed to a lack of at-

tention to detail and not focusing on the task at hand. Likewise, many of our ground mishaps involved motorists who lost control of their vehicles due to excessive speed or because they simply did not focus on their driving duties and failed to anticipate road hazards. The trends associated with these smaller mishaps must be addressed to keep them from cutting further into our combat resources, or worse, resulting in a fatality. That’s why we started project smart.

It is a team effort to guard against the errors, complacency and poor judgment that can lead to mishaps. Stay committed to personal safety and take this time to focus on the practices needed to reduce risk — always play it smart!

Commander’s Action Line program

The Action Line program provides an avenue for the Incirlik community to voice their concerns, complaints and opinions to Col. Michael Gardiner, 39th Air Base Wing commander.

The program should only be used after you’ve tried resolving the issue through your chain of command.

Submit Action Lines by e-mailing action.line@incirlik.af.mil or calling the 39th Public Affairs Office at 6-6060.

Complaints will be edited to 300 words or less. Questions and responses may be printed in the *Tip of the Sword*.



Ask MEHMET

By Mehmet Birbiri, Host Nation Adviser

Traffic rules

Question: Mehmet, I was driving through a dark area near Mersin with my brights on the other night when I was pulled over by the local police at a check point. Although my Turkish is limited, I ascertained that they were upset because they had noticed that I had my brights on. Back home in the states, I routinely turn on my brights when traveling through dark areas as long as I turn them off for oncoming vehicles, but apparently that is against the rules here. Can you explain the rules for using brights at night?

Also, I notice that during the day Turkish drivers sometimes flash their lights at my car. Is there a reason why they do this? One more thing, do traffic lights have a different meaning? How come red and yellow lights can be on at the same time? Should I stop or go in that case? Are international traffic rules observed here? Or are there any rules?

Response: Almost every newcomer asks those questions and your concern about the traffic in Turkey is shared by nearly everybody including Turkish officials.

As I always say, "driving in Turkey is not dangerous, it is adventurous."

International traffic rules and signs apply in Turkey. Unfortunately, many Turkish drivers don't observe the rules and even worse - they create their own.

Turkey has one of the highest rates of fatal traffic accidents. Five to six thousand people are killed and about 100,000 people are injured each year, according to traffic officials. Turkish people refer to the problem as "the traffic monster."

Traffic lights are a factor in many accidents. They have the same meaning as the rest of the world: red for stop and green for go. But, yellow comes on with green and red as well.

At stoplights people will hear horns and see headlights flash behind them as soon as the yellow light comes on. The drivers are informing the vehicles in the front to move, as if the vehicles in the front were picnicking in the middle of the street.

The yellow light is considered as good as green by most drivers whether it is combined with green or red. In addition, many people even don't observe lights at all if the intersection is empty.

The speed limit is 50 kilometers per hour in residential areas, 90 kilometers per hour on high ways and 120 kilometers on the super highways, unless otherwise is posted. The police use radar guns to monitor compliance.

The flashing of lights and blowing of horns has several meanings in Turkey.

A quick flash or toot of the horn is used to greet a friendly driver or a pedestrian and longer flashes of the lights to tell other drivers to get out of their way. Once they flash their lights, even if it is wrong or dangerous, many drivers do not change their minds. Long horn blasts express bad feelings toward another driver or pedestrian.

Many people think that the reason drivers disobey and disregard traffic rules are the low fines assessed to violators. Many believe this is not enough to deter the drivers from breaking the rules.

As you said the brights are used when traveling through dark areas and you should turn them off for oncoming vehicles. The brights should be turned off while going through inhabited areas. If you stop or stopped, again you should turn your brights off as well.

Speeding fines

Question: I was pulled out by the police on the highway last Sunday. There was a line of cars pulled up by the police. With sign language, the policeman told me that I was speeding. He wrote a ticket and wanted me to pay. I didn't have Turkish money enough to pay the fine. He gave me the ticket and let me go. How and where can I pay that fine? What is the speed limit in Turkey?

Response: Let me answer your last question first. The speeding limits for cars in Turkey are, unless otherwise posted, 50 kilometers per hour (approximately. 30 mph) in residential areas and 90 kilometers per hour (55 mph) on highways. Police sets up radars on highways to control speeding. Very probably, you were caught speeding by the radar like the other cars in the line.

Traffic fines could be paid in two ways. You could pay the fine to the police at the spot. But make sure that you get a receipt for the fine you pay. If you don't have enough money on you and want to pay later on, you can pay it at tax bureau in Adana or at the banks that accept those fine payments. The OYAKBANK bank branch on the base,



A road sign in the Turkish government's safe-driving campaign says "Stop the traffic monster within you." The government is struggling to deal with what is known locally as the Traffic Monster (Trafik Canavari): signs, television programs, police checkpoints and public service bulletins seek to make Turkey's roads safer. Progress is being made, but it's going to take more years of education.

across from the Turkish BX, is accepting the payments of traffic fines.

Keep in mind you should pay your fine within ten days. If you do not pay it within the first ten days, the fine gets doubled. And if you don't pay within the second ten day the fine gets tripled. And if you don't pay it at all, a copy of the fine ticket will go to your registration folder at the traffic bureau and when you go there to de-register your car, your ticket will pop up and the fine will be collected from you.

It will be useful to keep all the receipts of the traffic fines until you de-register your car. If you cannot prove that you have paid your fine, you might be asked to pay it again.

Do you have a question about something Turkish? Ask Mehmet. To submit a question, call 6-6060 or e-mail mehmet.birbiri@incirlik.af.mil.



THE INCIRLIK GUIDE

Today

Stress management — The family support center sponsors a stress management class from 3 to 4 p.m. For more information or to sign up, call the FSC at 6-6755.

Saturday

Latin dance — The community center hosts a Fiesta Alegre latin dance to celebrate Hispanic heritage month at 6:30 p.m. at the After Six. The cost is \$3 without a food plate and \$6 with a food plate. For more information, call Nerissa Atkisson at 6-1032.

White out party — Karamursel Consistory and Starlight Chapter No. 52 sponsor a "white out" evening starting at 8 p.m. at the club complex ball room. The attire is white, smart casual. The cost is \$10 per person. For more information, call Rani Thomas at 6-8488 or 6-5286.

Sunday

DOD Show — The Department of Defense hosts "Pearls of the Pacific," a show of Hawaiian music, dance and costumes 7 p.m. at Arkadas Park. For more information, call Seyhan Elma at 6-8411.

Tuesday

College night — Incirlik High School is sponsoring college night for students and parents Sept. 28 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. For more information or if interested in representing a college or institution, call Ms. DiQuinzio at 6-6330.

Promotion ceremony — The 39th Air Base Wing monthly promotion ceremony is at 3 p.m. in the club complex ball room. For

more information, call Master Sgt. Dayle Russell at 6-8631.

Thursday

Ping pong — The table tennis/ping pong club's first meeting is 6:30 p.m. at the community center. The club is open to Incirlik members 16 and older. For more information, call 1st Lt. Franklin Porcil at 6-6706.

TSP — The family support center sponsors a Thrift Savings Plan class from 11 to 11:45 a.m. For more information or sign up, call the FSC at 6-6755.

Upcoming

Dorm council — The Incirlik dorm council meets noon Oct. 6 in the Piper room at the club. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Ken Winfield at 6-8075.

Ongoing

Red Cross — The American Red Cross Office needs a volunteer to assist in administering the health and safety programs Tuesdays through Thursdays from noon to 4 p.m. For more information, call Erin Leonard at 6-6639.

Preschool play group — An informal play group for infants through 4-year-old children meets Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the youth center gym. Parents and care-givers who attend are expected to help set up and clean up and supervise children at all times. For more information, call Maribeth Viray at 6-6709 or 6-6452.

Lunch coupons — Old school lunch coupons are no longer accepted in the school cafeterias. Parents can take any old coupons to the base exchange and exchange them for the new coupons. Since the price per meal increased, parents will have to pay the difference for the new coupons. For more information, call Vernon Reddick 6-3750.

AFSA — The Air Force Sergeants Association meets every

third Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the club. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Adena Eberhardt at 6-1164.

Thrift shop — The thrift shop in Building 999 is open again from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays, 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the first Saturdays of every month. The shop also needs volunteers. For more

information, call the thrift shop at 6-6247 or Kathy Collins at 6-2152.

Back to school kit — The base library is offering free back to school packages for grades kindergarten through 12. In addition, the library has hundreds of new children's books, and entertainment and education DVDs available for checking out. For more information, call 6-6759.



COMBAT & SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAMS

Thursday

PYOC — The Protestant Youth of the Chapel seventh to 12th graders bible study is Thursdays from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Crossroads Cafe and 3 to 4:30 p.m. Sundays at the youth center. For more information, call Shane and Melanie Parrish at 6-5709.

Saturday

Catholic retreat — The chapel is sponsoring a Catholic women's retreat at the crossroads cafe. For more information or sign up by Sept. 22, call Ellen Herdler at 6-5267.

Tuesday

Catholic faith renewal — The chapel is sponsoring "What do they really believe?" a Catholic faith renewal 6:30 p.m. at the chapel annex. For more information, call Patty Heidlage at 6-3890.

Ongoing

Religious channels move — The two Combat Touch religious channels have moved to channel 15 and 16. The protestant channel is on channel 15 and Eternal Word Television Network Catholic programming

is on channel 16. To retune non-cable-ready TVs select "cable" instead of "air." For more information, call the chapel at 6-6441.

Newcomer's in-processing — The family support center sponsors part one of the newcomer's briefing Tuesdays from 7:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and part two is Wednesdays from 7:30 a.m. to noon at . For more information, call 6-6755.

Daily Mass on hold — Catholic Daily Mass, which is normally held at the chapel Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6 p.m. in the Blessed Sacrament Room, are cancelled through Sept. 23. For more information about Daily Mass, call Patty Heidlage at 6-3890.

Religious classes — Catholic religious classes are 11 a.m. Sundays at the chapel. For more information, call Patty Heidlage at 6-3890.

Volunteers — The chapel is looking for volunteers Mondays through Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call Senior Airman Milagro at 6-6441.

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK



Staff Sgt. Shaney Bowlds, 39th Mission Support Group commander support staff NCO in charge

Time in service: 12 years
Hometown: Owensboro, Ky
Time on station: 10 months
Hobbies: Football, playing and coaching soccer, spending time with family.
Why did you join the Air Force? Travel, education benefits
What do you like most about Incirlik? The weather
How do you contribute to the base's mission? I am a liaison on personnel issues between all the units in the 39th Mission Sup-

port Group and the military personnel flight. I maintain accurate personnel records on members of the 39th MSG.

What's your favorite motto and why?

"People who say it can't be done are usually interrupted by those who are doing it."

What Air Force core value best describes you and why?

Service before self. I always go into an office or base with an attitude that I will leave this place better than when I found it. Sometimes that means less free time for myself and family and more time concentrated on the mission.

Supervisor's quote: "Shaney's positive attitude, customer-orientated and his will to be the best are the best attributes any supervisor could wish for," said Master Sgt. Garvis Leak, 39th MSG CSS superintendent. "He has proven day in and day out to provide outstanding customer service. He is responsible for personnel programs for personnel assigned to 39th Air Base Wing Staff and 39th MSG. He is truly dedicated to the corps and maintains a high standard of excellence. His core value dictates his dedication for the mission and people. I am glad he is on the team."

YOUR TURN



To submit a question for "Your Turn," call 6-6060 or e-mail tip.sword@incirlik.af.mil

Why do you feel it is important for people in the military and their families to vote?

"We should vote, although there are no guarantees, so that hopefully we can find and end to all of the fighting so that families can be reunited."

— **Cathy Thompson**, homemaker



"Because it's our leaders that send us to war, and if we don't choose them, we don't have a say."

— **Erin Leonard**, Incirlik Red Cross



"Because we're choosing our future leaders."

— **Tech. Sgt. Kevin Watson**, 39th Medical Squadron



"Because it's our voice in government. If we don't exercise our right to vote, we don't have a right to complain."

— **Capt. Bradley Schwitters**, 39th Medical Squadron



"Voting is easy, its free and it's the quickest way each individual can shape the politics of our nation. We in the military should set the example for others to follow."

— **Tech. Sgt. Kathryn Manning**, 39th Communications Squadron



CLASSIFIEDS

Yard sale: PCS sale Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday at 2787C Istanbul, Phantom Housing. Furniture, computer desks, entertainment center, clothes, BBQ grills, 220V appliances, microwave, transformers, fans, adapters, extension cords, lots of miscellaneous.

Yard sale: Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon at 3915A Redwood Street (Eagle Housing.) For more information, call 6-5950.

Yard sale: Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon at 2810B; patio set and grill \$50; boys and girls clothing; dishes; VCR; single frames, bikes and miscellaneous. For more information, call Kermit or Nikki at 6-5442.

For adoption: Rugby has been at the shelter for almost a month. She is approximately seven months old and weighs 35 pounds. She has lots of puppy energy. She already has some basic sit, stay training under her belt. For more information, call the stray animal facility at 6-1581 and leave a message.

For sale: 1994 Alpha Romeo 155 T-spark, low mileage and great shape, four-door, euro specs, new tires sports rims, new brakes, 10-disc CD changer, color is grey. \$3,500. For more information, call 6-2249 or e-mail michael.aiken@incirlik.af.mil.

For sale: Small 230-volt, 5-bulb crystal chandelier light fixture, \$25. For more information, call Daryl or Toni at 6-2383.

For sale: 1991 Toyota Cynos, two doors, Japanese specs, clean, runs great, \$1,300 OBO. For more information, call Donnie at 6-9179 or 6-2015.

Project Wizard, a U.S. Air Forces in Europe special interest program, focuses on the opportunities to study and explore through libraries. For more information about the program or upcoming events, call the library at 6-6759.





Photo by Senior Airman Dallas Edwards

Celebrating 57 years

Members of the 39th Services Squadron serve food during a block party celebrating the Air Force's 57th birthday sponsored by Project CHEER. The swearing in of the first secretary of the Air Force, W. Stuart Symington, on Sept. 18, 1947, marks the official birthday of the Air Force becoming a distinct and separate U.S. military service. Up to that point, airpower had been provided by the Army Air Corps, which later became the Army Air Forces.



AT THE MOVIES

At the Oasis

Friday

A Cinderella Story (PG) – Starring Hilary Duff and Jennifer Coolidge. Samantha lives at the beck and call of her self-obsessed step-mother Fiona and her sinfully wicked step-sisters. She finds her less-than-sparkling social life wonderfully complicated when she meets her prince charming online. Her anonymous cyber soul mate turns out to be Austin, her high school's quarterback. Fearing rejection, Sam dodges Austin's efforts to discover the identity of his princess. Will Sam let fear hold her back, or will she find the courage to be herself and claim the life she's always wanted? Her chance at "happily ever after" depends on it. Showing at 7 p.m. (95 minutes)



The Manchurian Candidate (R) – Starring Denzel Washington and Meryl Streep. During the first Gulf War, two U.S. soldiers are taken prisoner and brainwashed into becoming assassins by the enemy. They re-

turn home as heroes, though Marco is troubled by dreams and vague memories of his brainwashing. Eventually, Marco remembers what has happened to him and tries to get to Raymond Shaw, who is running for office, to convince him of what he's remembered. Showing at 9 p.m. (130 minutes)



Saturday

A Cinderella Story (PG) – Starring Hilary Duff and Jennifer Coolidge. Showing at 5 p.m. (95 minutes)

The Manchurian Candidate (R) – Starring Denzel Washington and Meryl Streep. Showing at 7 p.m. (130 minutes)

Sunday

Anchorman (PG-13) – Starring Will Ferrell and Christina Applegate. When feminism marches into the newsroom in the form of ambitious newswoman Veronica Corningstone, Ron, the top-rated anchorman in San Diego is willing to play along at first, as long as Veronica stays in her place, covering cat fashion shows, cooking and other "female" interests. But when Veronica refuses to settle for being eye candy and steps behind the news desk, it's more than a battle between two perfectly coiffed anchor-persons, it's war. Showing at 7 p.m. (91 minutes)

Thursday

CATWOMAN (PG-13) – Starring Halle

Berry and Sharon Stone. Patience Philips seems destined to spend her life apologizing for taking up space. This comes to a screeching halt when Patience inadvertently becomes a human guinea pig for the revolutionary anti-aging product Hedare and not only lands herself in the middle of a corporate conspiracy of gargantuan proportions, but on the city police force's most wanted list. Equipped with a new feline prowess, Patience is a different person come night-



time, more accurately, a Catwoman; elusive, untamed, powerful, stealthy, and not necessar-

ily prone to erring on the side of good, Patience has gone from doormat to vigilante. Showing at 7 p.m. (104 minutes)

At the M1

Catwoman (PG-13) — 12 p.m., 2:15 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:45 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. (104 minutes)

Terminal (PG-13) — 11 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:30 p.m. and 11:45 p.m. (128 minutes)

Man on Fire (R) — 12:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m., and 12 p.m. (104 minutes)

Starsky and Hutch (PG-13) — 11:15 p.m., 3:15 p.m., 6:45 p.m. and 9 p.m. (101 minutes)

Anaconda (PG-13) — 11:15 p.m., 1:15 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. (97 minutes)

For more information and updates, call the movie recording at 6-6986 or the theater office at 6-9140. The provision of movie information does not constitute an endorsement by the 39th Air Base Wing, U.S. government, Department of Defense or Department of the U.S. Air Force. For more information, call the theater at 6-6986.